

The Buzz from & about the Friends of the Beebe Library Spring 2026

FROM THE BOARD

By Karen Williams

Spring has sprung! We at the Friends are all appreciative of the end of winter, and of you! Our big fundraiser for the year comes up this May and, as always, you have come through with donations of thousands of books for the sale. Thank you!

The first day of the sale, Wednesday May 13, will be for members only. If your membership has lapsed, rejoin at <https://www.friendsofbeebe.org/join> (preferred) or join at the door. This will give you access in advance of the public sale. Then everyone can come for the remaining days of the sale, Thursday May 14 through Saturday, May 16.

The proceeds from memberships, the book sale, donations, and honey sales allow us to provide funding for the things that you love at the library. This year we have already committed funding for a new copier (more on that to come in the next newsletter), the summer youth program, adult programming, Plaza Jazz, and the consortium for online lectures. We expect to provide additional funds to the library later this year.

We remain concerned about whether we will be able to continue to hold book sales due to uncertainty regarding the availability of the Hurd School for our book collection and sale. We've heard you regarding how much you value the ability to donate your surplus books to us and to shop at our annual sale. We want to continue it, but we need to have a site to make that happen. If you know of a no- or very low-cost location that we could use to receive, sort, and store thousands

of book donations and/or a site where we could hold future sales, please let us know.

We are exploring new fundraising options to supplement and potentially replace the book sale, and we have some exciting ideas for future events. However, we could use the assistance of additional people with an interest in fundraising to help us. In addition, we are searching for an Assistant Treasurer and a Newsletter Editor / Coordinator. Please let us know if you would like to help. Don't forget that we also accept donations (<https://www.friendsofbeebe.org/donate>). And don't miss the honey for sale at the circulation desk at the library and the Everyday Book Sale books on the lower level between the two front staircases.

Hoping that you all have a great spring!



2026 Annual Book Sale

Hurd School, 26 Cordis Street, Wakefield MA

Wed, May 13th	2-7 pm (Members only)
Thu, May 14th	2-7 pm
Fri, May 15th	2-7 pm
Sat, May 16th	9 am-2 pm

The Beebe Library Offers a Touch of Spring

By Karen King

On a very cold, icy February night, I forced myself to get to the Beebe and attend a *Gardening for Biodiversity* lecture I had registered for. The Lecture Room was full of others who had braved the cold and what followed was information that helped all attendees get ready to prepare for the gardening season.

Amy Meltzer led the presentation as co-chair of the steering committee of the [Mass Pollinator Network](#). In addition, Amy is an active member of [Grow Native Massachusetts](#), and has been researching and growing native plants for years. Her presentation focused on which native plants promote pollination and which more hybrid and common plants you may want to replace. She totally captured the audience and there were many questions. As a follow up, Wakefield's [Environmental Sustainability Committee](#) sent each of the attendees a lengthy list of plants to include in your gardens and local places where they might be available.

This was a welcomed breath of spring for me and I did more digging into the Events link on the Beebe Library website to see what other garden and plant sessions might be offered.

On March 10th, the Beebe offered an Introduction to Wildflowers via Zoom, led by Bill Gette. On April 8th, there was an on-site lecture *Water Wisdom with the Master Gardners* led by Carol Rego. On Tuesday, May 5th, there is an on-site *Plant Swap* at the Beebe where you can exchange seeds, plants and share tips to growing a better garden.

And the seed swap doesn't stop there as the Beebe has a fabulous seed catalog on the 2nd floor. Residents can bring in seeds from their gardens or ones that they purchased and won't use. There are envelopes available next to the box and you can label your seeds with plant name as well as the name of the gardener. And yes, you can browse available seeds and take some for your own yard. This is a great resource for locals and a money saver as well.

If you, too are looking forward to getting into your garden this spring, please know that the Beebe Library is a resource for far more than books. Their scheduled

lectures, both on site and via Zoom, are intended to be a community resource. We hope you utilize all that the Beebe offers.



Upcoming Online Events Funded by Friends of the Beebe Library

There is always a lot more going on that isn't on the schedule in time for our deadline, so keep checking the library website (<http://www.wakefieldlibrary.org/>) for upcoming events and to register for the following events.

Author Talk: Dr. Vivienne Ming

Robot-Proof – A Timely Conversation on AI

Tuesday, May 12th, 2:00-3:00 PM

Author Talk: Nir Eyal

Beyond Belief – What if the only thing standing between you and the seemingly impossible...was belief?

Tuesday, May 19th, 2:00-3:00 pm

Author Talk: Smithsonian Curator Mary Savig

The history and significance of craft at state fairs

Wednesday, June 3rd 2:00-3:00 pm

Author Talk: Matt Dinniman

A Parade of Horribles – Dungeon Crawler Carl series

Thursday, June 11th, 7:00—8:30 PM

Author Talk: Ted Page

Good Grandpa: Stories from the Heart of Grandfatherhood

Thursday, June 18th, 2:00—3:00 PM

CRAFTS FUN FOR ADULTS AT THE LIBRARY

By Karen Williams

Money from the Friends funds many programs in the library, including adult craft programs. I recently attended two fun events.

Second Nature Arts is an organization that has presented several programs at the library. In March I attended their Whimsical Weavings program. Unfortunately, due to inclement weather they had many cancelations, but four of us diehards showed up and were rewarded with personalized instruction. Susan and Katherine Smith gave us a great informative session on how to weave using a variety of techniques. This program was funded by the Friends and the Mass Cultural Council.



In April I attended the Faux Stained Glass program. It was led by the sister of Catie Riordan, one of our intrepid reference librarians, with assistance from Catie herself. Molly donated her time and expertise while the Friends paid for the supplies. Many beautiful faux stained glass projects resulted, while their creators got a welcome break from the day to

day. It is said that arts and crafts are a wonderful stress reducer!



These craft programs fill up quickly, and are some of the most successful programs that the library offers, along with Plaza Jazz, yoga and dance, and author, travel, and history talks. The library has told us that they would not be able to offer the number of programs that they do without our support. Thank you for helping us to fund these wonderful events!

Upcoming Children's Events

Hurry to the Hive Scavenger Hunt

All Week May 11th – May 16th

Evan Haller's Preschool Party Concert

Monday, May 18th, 10:00 – 11:00 AM

Lecture Hall

Visit www.wakefieldlibrary.org for details

Focus on the Friends

By Karen Williams

The Board and key volunteers of the Friends of Beebe Library have completed an exercise to establish what the key tenets of the organization are. We would like to share those with you so that you can get to know us better. In each newsletter we will highlight a different aspect of our organization.

Our third area of focus is to advocate throughout the community on behalf of the library, i.e., what the library needs. We do this by:

- 1) Encouraging our members to vote at Town meetings on matters relating to the library. This includes informing members of the dates and times of Town meetings where the library budget will be discussed / voted upon, and informing members of the dates and times of Town elections where Library Trustees are on the slate.
- 2) Educating the community about library funding & other library issues, including how to contact their local officials. We do this by raising awareness among members of issues of importance to library leadership and the Friends of the Beebe Library, encouraging members to share their thoughts and opinions on library issues with local officials, and raising awareness among members of the existence and purpose of the statewide Massachusetts Friends of Libraries organization.
- 3) Informing members about legislative issues related to libraries and educating them on how to contact their legislators. This includes raising awareness among members of bills in front of the State Legislature that impact libraries and Friends of Library organizations, informing members how to identify who their legislators are and how to contact them, encouraging members to share their thoughts and opinions on library issues with legislators during their

office hours and events, and identifying a step-by-step guide to writing advocacy letters and recommending to members / providing a generic sample letter to a legislator.

These are areas of growth for the Friends, so if you have experience in this type of effort that you would like to share with us, we would love to hear your thoughts.

Let us know if you have any questions about who the Friends of Library are and what we do.

Friends of Beebe Library Calendar

May

Annual Book Sale

Wed, May 13th 2-7 pm (Members only)
Thu, May 14th 2-7 pm
Fri, May 15th 2-7 pm
Sat, May 16th 9 am-2 pm

Friends of Beebe Monthly Board Meeting

Thursday, May 21st, 7 pm
All welcome
Program Room

June

Friends of Beebe Annual Meeting

Thursday, June 14th, 7 pm
*Election of Officers/
Vote on updates to by-laws*
All Welcome
Lecture Hall

FRIENDS OF THE BEEBE LIBRARY
P.O. BOX 2115
WAKEFIELD, MA 01880



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Where Wakefield Connects



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Assistant Treasurer	Louise Good	Newsletter Editor	Phil Good
Photographer	Sherri Caouette	Fundraising Coordinator	Sherri Caouette
Volunteer Coordinator	OPEN	Fundraising Committee	OPEN (Multiple)
Float Coordinator	OPEN		

Become a member...

Visit our web page to download an application or pay online via PayPal.

For more information, visit www.FriendsofBeebe.org

